

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05896 180859Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 180809Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9254
INFO USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5896

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KU, IR, IZ, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN AND IRAQI ACTIVITIES IN KUWAIT

REF: TEHRAN 9080

1. EMBASSY HAS NO SPECIFIC RECENT EVIDENCE EITHER OF
INCREASED SYRIAN OR IRAQI ACTIVITIES IN KUWAIT OR OF
HEIGHTENED KUWAITI CONCERN.

2. RECENTLY, OUR FEELING HAS BEEN THAT KUWAITIS HAVE
MADE CONSCIOUS EFFORT NOT TO STIR THE ANTI-IRAQ POT
SO LONG AS IT APPEARS THAT GOI MIGHT SERIOUSLY BE
INTERESTED IN REDUCING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. THERE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ONE OR TWO
CIRCULARS FLOATING AROUND KUWAIT CITY OVER PAST SIX MONTHS
OR SO POINTING OUT THE EVILS OF THE BA'TH PARTY
GOVERNMENT IN IRAQ, BUT AT LEAST SOME OF THIS
PAMPHLETERRING HAD THE QUIET BACKING OF KUWAITI
INTELLIGENCE, AND IT HAS NOT BEEN THE SORT OF THING THAT
IS TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY HERE.

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3. THE GOK HAS REASON TO AVOID MEDDLING IN SYRIAN-IRAQI
AFFAIRS. THE SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS BEGUN BY
DELEGATION HEADED BY IRAQI INTERIOR MINISTER IZZAT IBRAHIM
AL-DURI (APRIL 1977), AND INCLUDING KUWAIT MINISTER
OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE SHAYKH SA'AD'S TRIP TO IRAQ (JUNE
27-JULY 3), HAS LED TO SOME OPTIMISM THAT THE IRAQIS

WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY TOWARD FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. IN FACT, SOME MINIMUM STEPS TOWARD THAT END HAVE BEEN TAKEN. WHILE IT IS APPARENT THAT THE SYRIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS SOME MANDATE FOR WORKING AGAINST IRAQ, WE BELIEVE THAT ITS ACTIVITIES WITHIN KUWAIT ARE NOT BEYOND A LEVEL WHICH THE KUWAITIS REGARD AS ACCEPTABLE AND NORMAL. SYRIANS WERE BLAMED BY GOI FOR A BOMB ATTEMPT IN JUNE AGAINST AN IRAQI EXILE RESIDENT KUWAIT, BUT THAT OPERATION IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY IRAQIS THEMSELVES.

4. REGARDING IRANIAN PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN KUWAIT, IT HAS BEEN OUR IMPRESSION FOR SOME TIME THAT THE LARGE IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE IS SHORT ON ANALYTICAL SKILLS AND REPORTING TALENT, IN SUM, WE SEE NO SIGNS OF UNUSUAL KUWAITI CONCERN OVER SYRIAN OR IRAQI ACTIVITY IN KUWAIT, AND WE VIEW NAYERI'S REMARKS CONTAINED REFTTEL AS A PROBABLE SIGN OF SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED REPORTING FROM IRANIAN EMBASSY.
MAESTRONE

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